



CHAPTER 23: ROMAN WISDOM

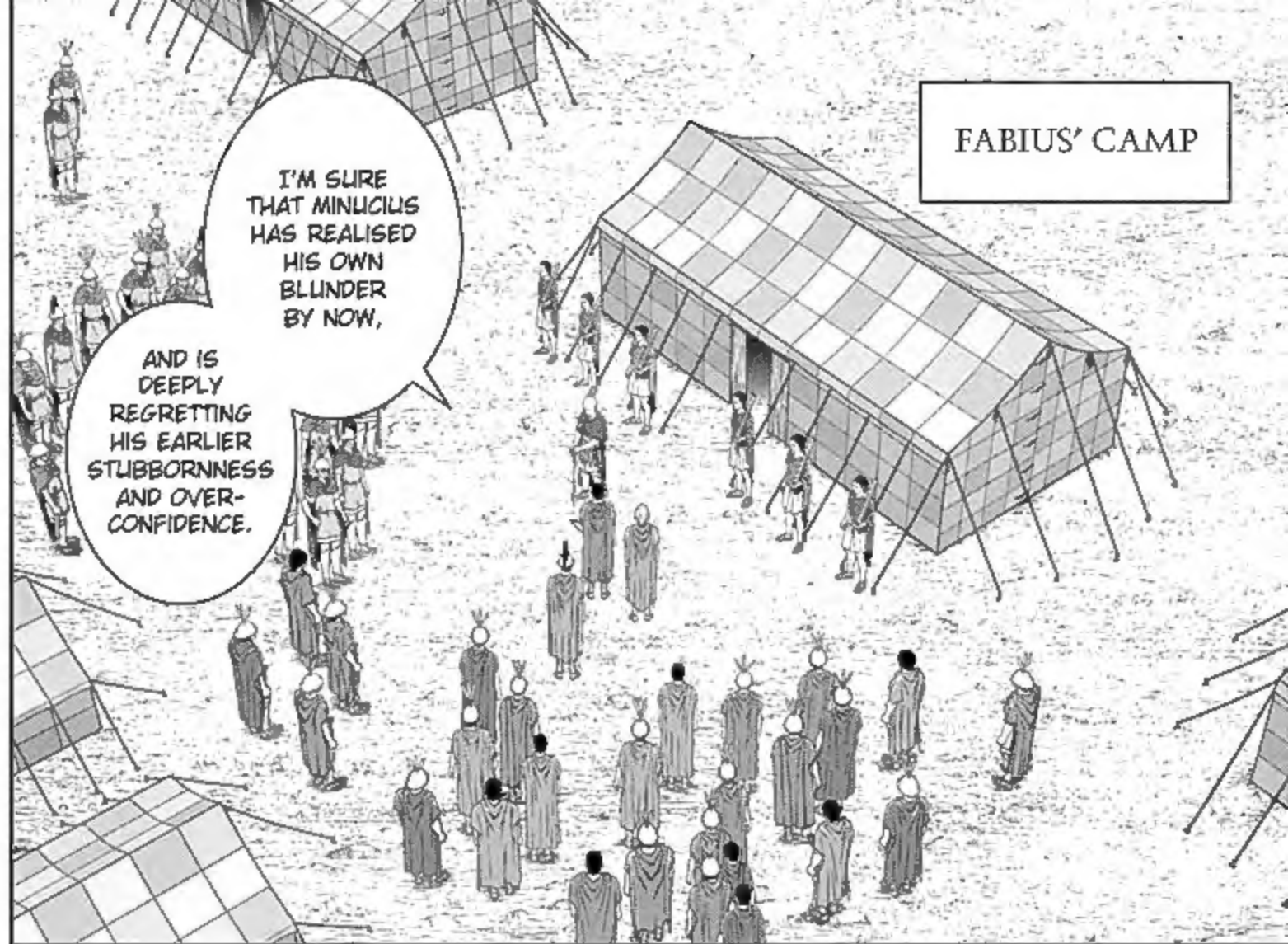




FABIUS' CAMP

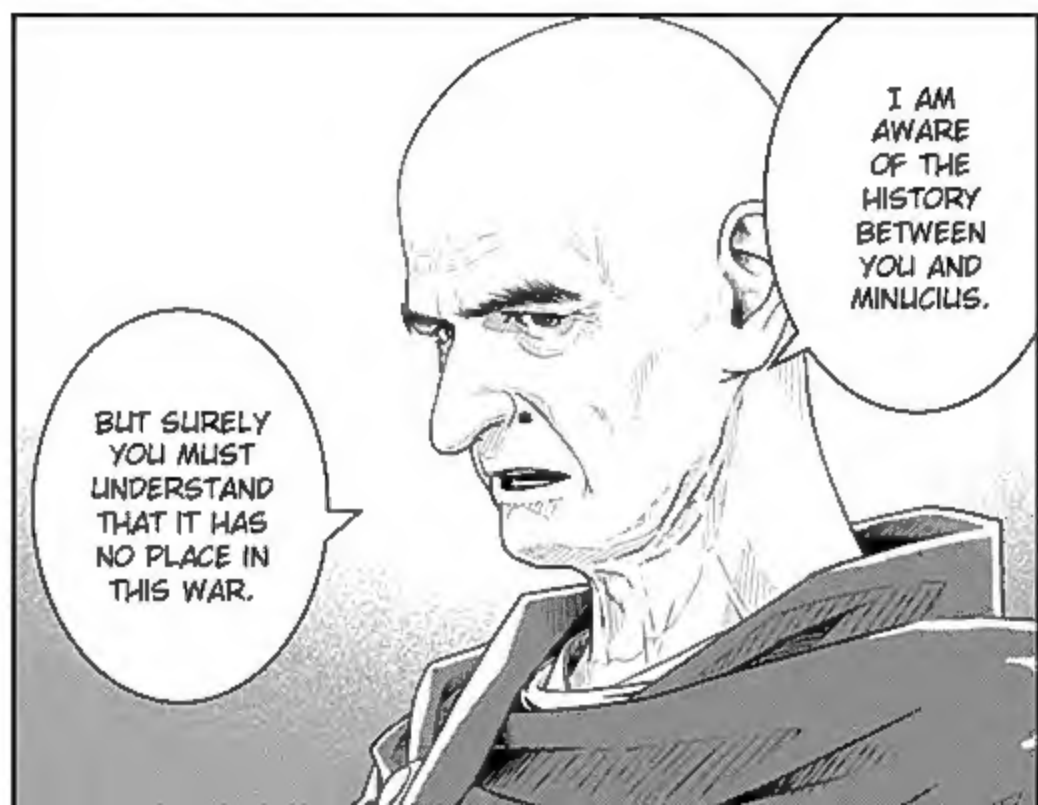
I'M SURE
THAT MINUCIUS
HAS REALISED
HIS OWN
BLUNDER
BY NOW,

AND IS
DEEPLY
REGRETTING
HIS EARLIER
STUBBORNNESS
AND OVER-
CONFIDENCE.



I AM
AWARE
OF THE
HISTORY
BETWEEN
YOU AND
MINUCIUS.

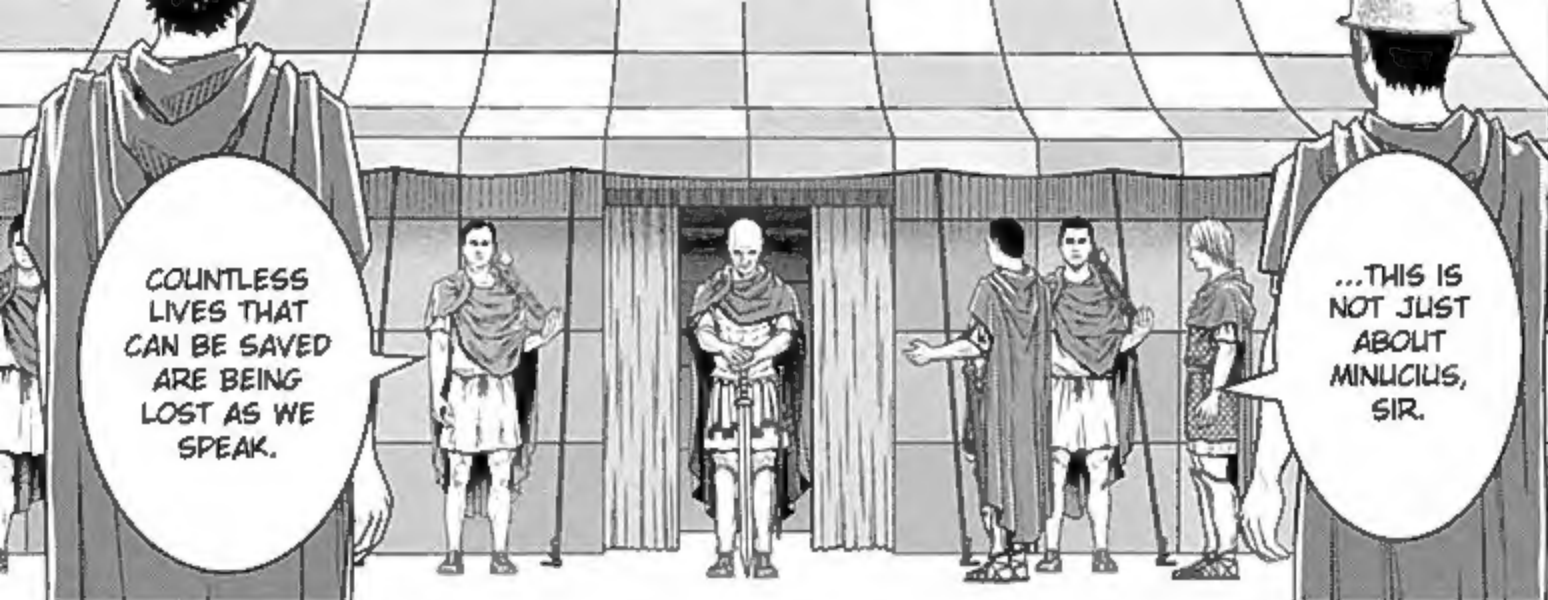
BUT SURELY
YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND
THAT IT HAS
NO PLACE IN
THIS WAR.



THERE IS
NO REASON
MINUCIUS WILL
OPPOSE YOU
ANY MORE
NOW THAT HE
HAS BEEN
HUMBLED.

SO
PLEASE,
SIR, LET
US GO TO
HIS AID.





COUNTLESS
LIVES THAT
CAN BE SAVED
ARE BEING
LOST AS WE
SPEAK.

...THIS IS
NOT JUST
ABOUT
MINICIUS,
SIR.

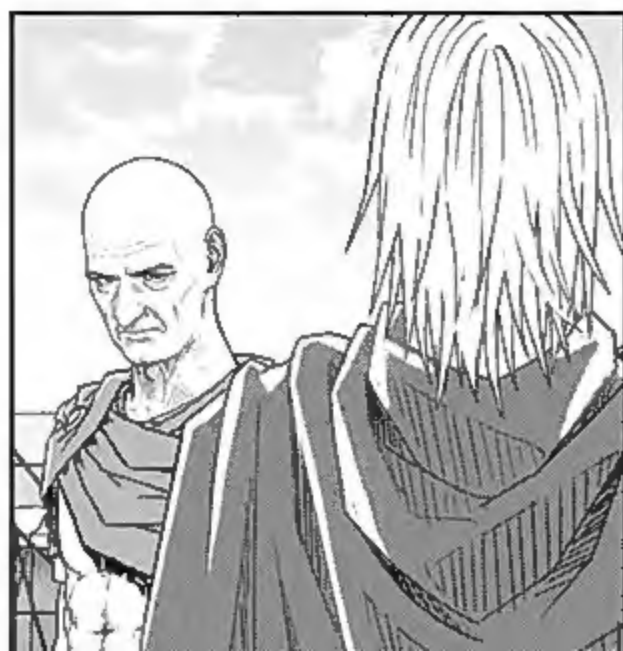


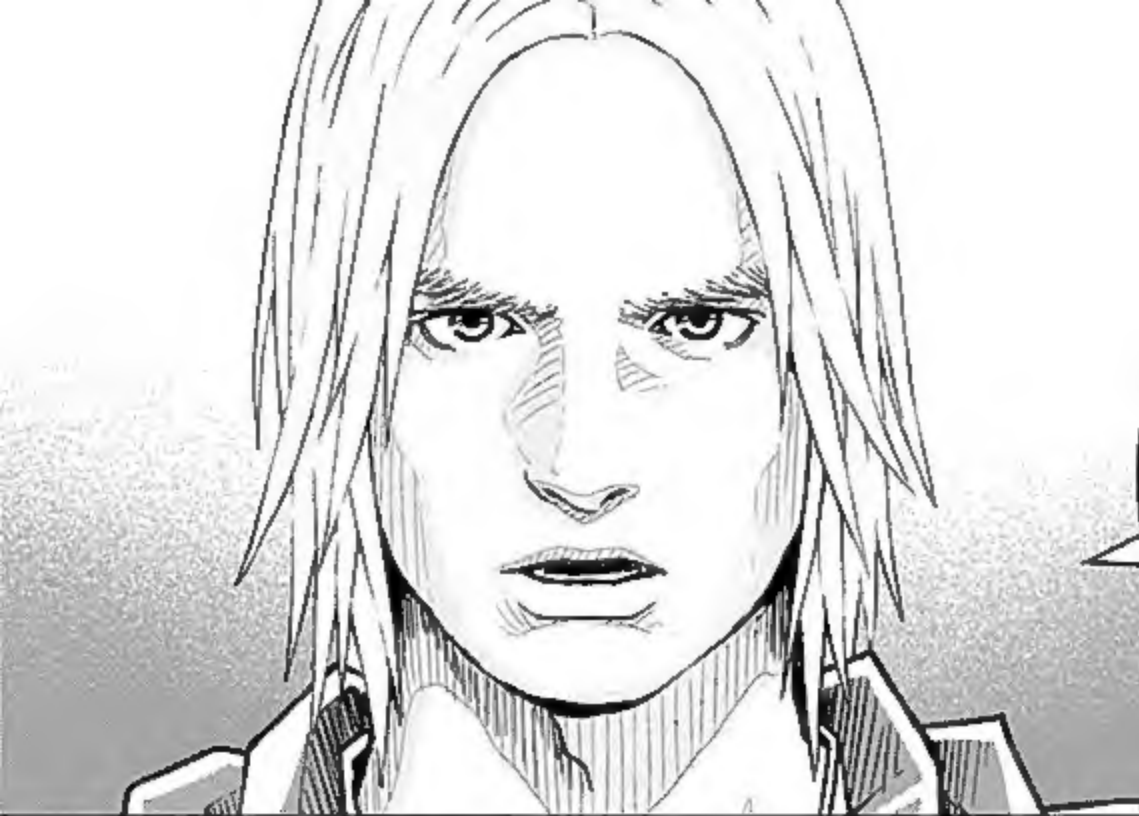
THEY ARE
NOT OBJECTS
THAT SHOULD
BE THROWN
AWAY SO
EASILY.

EVERY SINGLE
ONE OF OUR
MEN ARE
INDIVIDUALS
WITH THEIR
OWN LIVES.

MANIUS, THE
SKIRMISHER,
HAS BEEN CARING
FOR HIS YOUNGER
BROTHERS EVER
SINCE THEY LOST
THEIR PARENTS.

TAUREA, AN
ALLIED SOLDIER
FROM CAPUA,
HAS ONLY JUST
BECOME FATHER
TO A NEWBORN
SON EARLIER
THIS YEAR.





WHAT YOU
ARE DOING NOW
IS ABUSING
YOUR POWER
AS DICTATOR.



THIS IS THE
PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY
TO VINDICATE
YOURSELF BY
HAVING ROME'S
MOST PROMINENT
WARMONGER
ADMIT HIS
ERROR.



...AND
YET, YOU
CHOOSE TO
ABANDON THE
MEN THAT
YOU COULD
SAVE,
IT WILL
NOT BE
MINUCIUS
WHO COMES
UNDER
SCRUTINY,
BUT YOU.



A MAN WHO
LETS HIS OWN
SOLDIERS DIE
WILL LOSE THE
TRUST OF THE
PEOPLE, AND HIS
POSITION WILL
FOLLOW.



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?...



WHICH
MAN WOULD
BENEFIT THE
MOST FROM
THIS?

AND WHO
WOULD
DESIRE THIS
SITUATION?



IT WAS
ONLY
THROUGH
NUMEROUS
FAILURES IN
THE HISTORY
OF OUR
NATION,

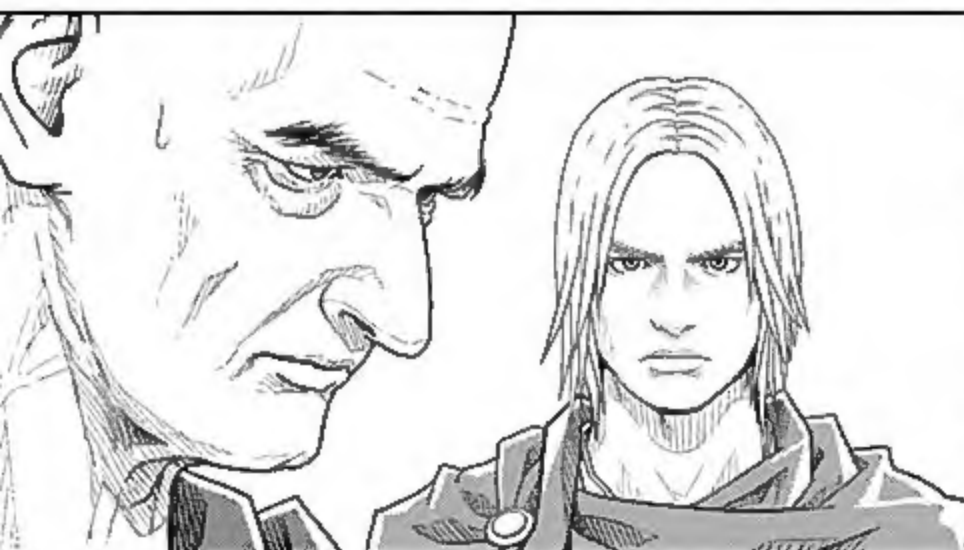
AND THE
ABILITY TO
LEARN FROM
THOSE MISTAKES
THAT WE HAVE
BECOME THE
POWER WE ARE
TODAY.

THE ROMAN
REPUBLIC
IS NOT
INVINCIBLE.



DENYING HIM THIS CHANCE TO LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKE.

YET DESPITE THAT, RIGHT NOW YOU ARE DENYING MINUCIUS...



I'M SURE YOU HAVE BENEFITED FROM THIS MERCY IN THE PAST YOURSELF, FABIUS.

UNLIKE CARTHAGE, IT IS A ROMAN CUSTOM TO SHOW CLEMENCY TOWARDS OUR OWN DEFEATED GENERALS.



BUT TO REFUSE TO SAVE HIM SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THAT ONE REASON...

IT IS TRUE THAT MINUCIUS' CONSTANT ATTACKS ON YOU...

MADE HIM A THORN IN YOUR SIDE...





...TO
KILL ME
NOW,

WOULD BE
THE SAME AS
ADMITTING THAT
YOU ARE BEING
CONTROLLED
BY YOUR
EMOTIONS.



SON OF
CORNELIUS
...

I HOPE
YOU ARE
PREPARED
FOR THE
CONSE-
QUENCES.





FABIUS...



THE
REASON
WHY YOU
REFUSE TO
SEND AID
TO THE
MAN WHO
SHUNNED
YOU,

IS BECAUSE
YOU MAINTAIN
PROPER
MILITARY
RULES AND
REGULATION.



THE YOUNG
SCPIO IS
MISTAKEN...

I KNOW
THAT YOU
ARE A MAN
WHO MOVES
ACCORDING
TO LOGIC.

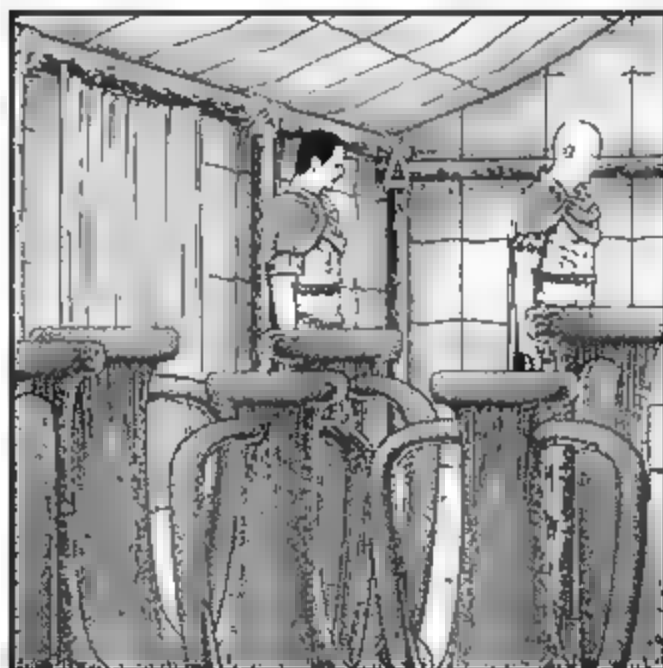


THERE
WILL BE
NOTHING
TO KEEP
ROME REINED
IN FROM
NOW ON.

IF YOU
WERE
TO LOSE
POWER AS
DICTATOR,

DOES
MAKE SOME
COMPELLING
POINTS.

...NONE-
THELESS,
SCIPIO'S
ARGUMENT
...



THIS IS A
DECISION
THAT WILL
DECIDE
MINUCIUS'
FATE,

AS WELL
AS THE
FATE OF
ROME
ITSELF.

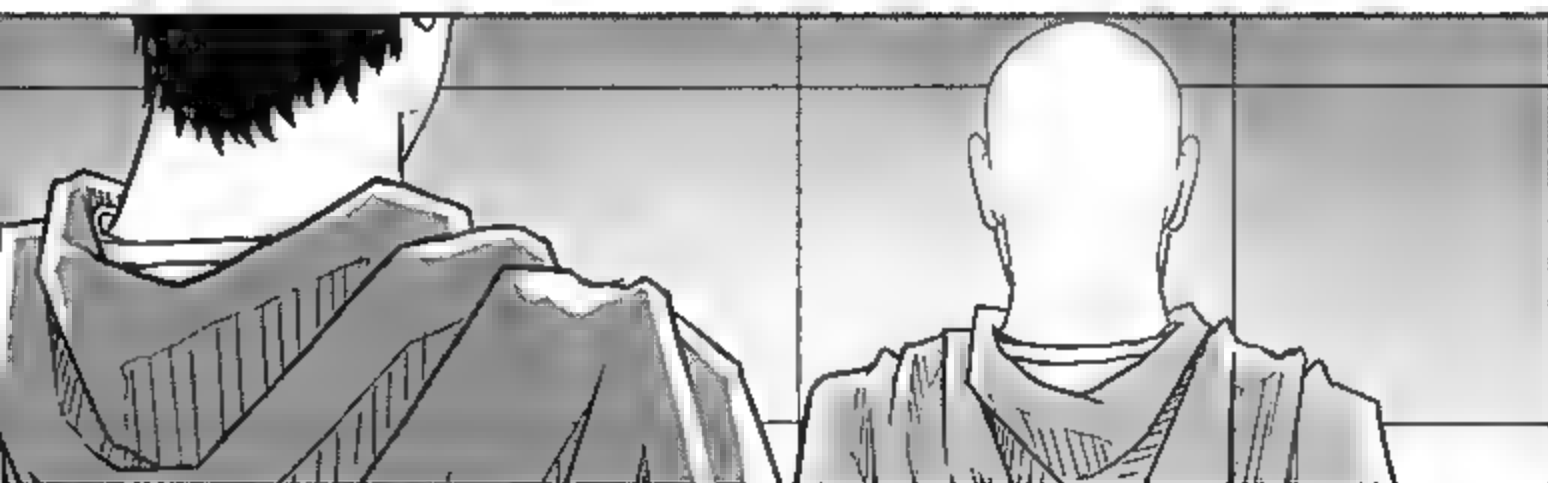


...SO IF YOU
CANNOT FIND
IT WITHIN YOU
TO MOBILISE
THE MEN FOR
MINUCIUS'
SAKE...

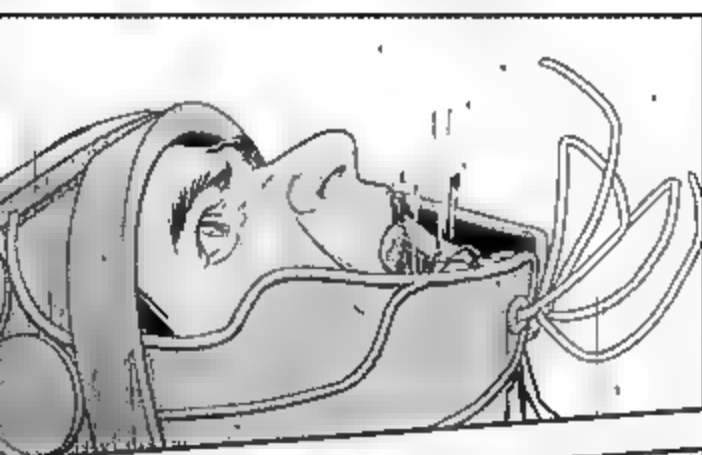
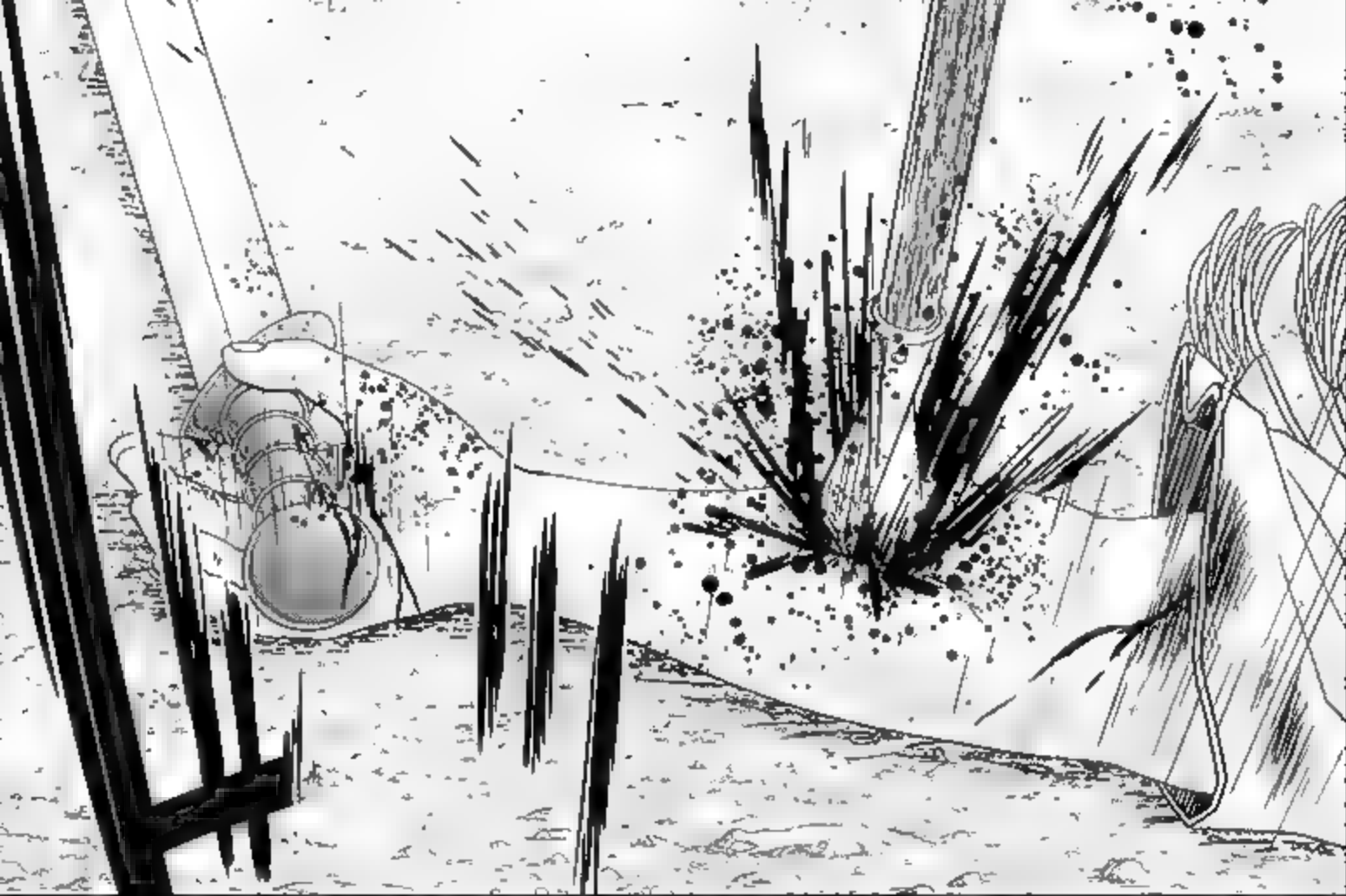


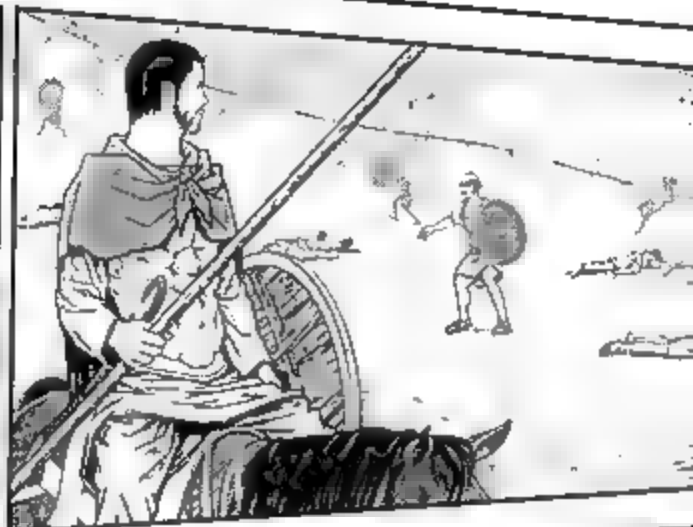
...MINUCIUS'
OFFENCES
HAVE BEEN
GREAT AND
MANY...

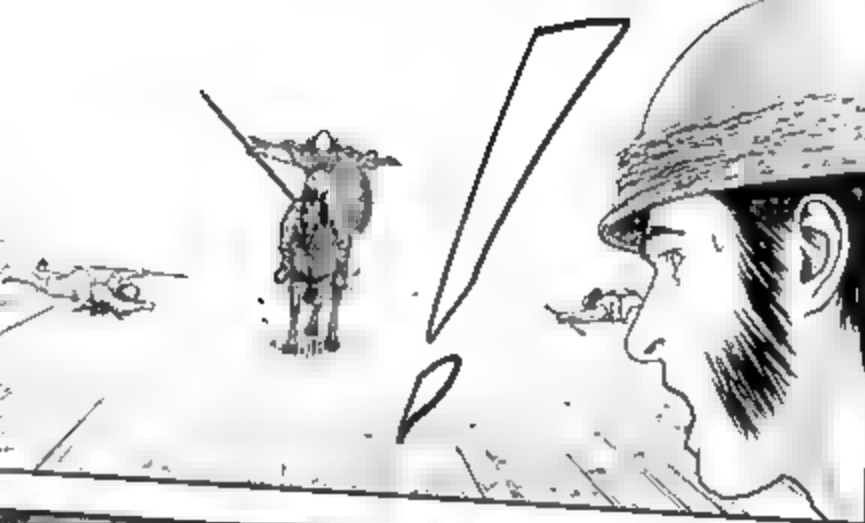
AND I
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU
WOULD NOT
WISH TO
SAVE HIM.

















...WITH
THAT
BEING
SAID...

TO BE
LECTURED ON
MORALS BY
TWO MEN
YOUNG ENOUGH
TO BE MY
SON AND
GRANDSON...

PERHAPS
THE FUTURE
OF ROME
IS STILL
SALVAGEABLE
AFTER ALL...



IF YOU
CHOOSE
TO BATTLE
HIM,

YOU RISK
THROWING
AWAY
YOUR OWN
FUTURES.

OUR
OPPONENT
IS
HANNIBAL.



GLADLY.





**CHARGE!
WE GO TO
SAVE OUR
COMRADES!**



**READY
YOUR-
SELVES,
MEN
OF THE
ROMAN
LEGIONS!**



ad astra

Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major & Hannibal Barca